

P.O. Box 93 Star Prairie, WI 54026 cedarlake-wi.org

Annual Meeting Notice

9:00 a.m., August 8, 2015 Star Prairie Town Hall 2118 Cook Drive, Somerset, WI

The agenda will cover the status of alum treatment, alum expert speaker Dick Osgood, Eurasian water milfoil management, by-law revision, lake district boundary clarification, election of directors, consideration of approval of budget, and public input and comment. The proposed operational budget totals \$33,750 and debt service for the alum treatment totals \$240,000. The budget is available for review at the following locations: Alden Town Hall, Star Prairie Town Hall, and Star Prairie Village Hall.

Regular Board meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Alden Town Hall, 183 155th Street, Star Prairie, WI.

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Volume 2 • Second Edition

EURASION WATER MILFOIL UPDATE

By now, most of you know that Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) was discovered in Cedar Lake on June 26. Thanks go out to our aquatic invasive species monitor, Steve Schieffer, who took the time to look beyond the boat landings where he was directed to work, and found this invasive plant.

The lake district followed the rapid response plan developed as part of the lake management plan to address this unwanted news. The following steps were initiated:

- 1) Our lake consultant notified the Lake District Board, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Polk and St. Croix Counties (6/26).
- 2) WDNR followed the next working day with verification of the EWM discovery and a full aquatic plant survey (6/29).
- 3) Steve returned to the lake to map EWM growth in more detail (7/01). Dense growth was limited to the south end of the lake near the shallow water hazard area marked with buoys.
- 4) Special permission was obtained to place buoys in the lake to mark the areas of dense EWM growth (6/30). To avoid spread of the plant, please avoid boating in these areas. We followed up with a permit application to WDNR after getting approval from the Town of Star Prairie (7/7).
- 5) A control strategy for EWM was developed based on this information. It involves a chemical treatment limited to 3-acres to cover dense areas of EWM growth and scattered plants just beyond this area. 6) Public notification of the EWM discovery and planned treatment
- followed immediately (7/2).
- 7) A licensed contractor was secured to conduct the treatment (7/2).
- 8) The EWM control treatment has been completed (7/15).
- 9) Hand-pulling with divers will follow about one month following treatment.

Next steps will be to apply for a Rapid Response Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (7/29). The grant is a 75% grant that can cover the initial response outlined above, monitoring before and after treatment, and annual monitoring to see if further control measures are needed. The grant will also support the incorporation of an aquatic plant management strategy into the existing lake management plan.

July 2015



Northern Water Milfoil

Please be on the look-out for Eurasian Water Milfoil as you boat around the lake. If you think you see this plant on the lake well beyond the marked area, please collect a plant specimen, place it in a plastic bag in the refrigerator, and call Dan Early 763-442-2666 or Doug Dickson 715-808-1402. Eurasian water milfoil might be confused with a number of other submersed plants, including other water milfoils. Northern water milfoil (present in Cedar Lake) has fewer than 12 leaf segments on each side of the leaf axis, whereas Eurasian water milfoil has 14 or more leaf segments on each side of the leaf axis. Northern water milfoil has somewhat stouter stems than Eurasian water milfoil.

ALUM TREATMENT UPDATE

The lake district is continuing to pursue the alum treatment for the spring of 2016. We met with the manager of a nearby project in Minnesota to learn from his experience. Staff from the Rice Creek Watershed District had much appreciated information and advice for us learned from the Bald Eagle Lake alum project. Initial discussions with a contractor capable of completing the treatment have also given us a better idea of project logistics. Lake scientist, Bill James (UW-Stout) and Lake Coordinator, Buzz Sorge (WDNR) are helping to guide the treatment strategy.

Grant funding was secured from the WDNR Lake Protection Grant program (\$200,000), and we await the results of a \$1,000,000 request in to the WDNR Targeted Runoff Management Grant program. These results will be announced in the fall. The 2013 resolution to authorize borrowing for the alum treatment specified that the treatment would occur with or without grant funding, but we are still hoping to get additional support.



Alum application on a Minnesota lake



Alum is expected to reduce internal loading of phosphorus by over 90%. According to a University of Wisconsin-Stout study, internal loading from lake sediments contributes 85% of the phosphorus loading to Cedar Lake in summer months. Phosphorus is important because it leads to algae blooms in the lake, including those blooms which may produce toxins.

ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER

Lake biologist, Dick Osgood will speak at our annual meeting to provide information about this year's hot topics: the alum treatment and Eurasian water milfoil. We invited Dick to address questions regarding the alum treatment.

Dick Osgood is a nationally-known author and speaker with an impressive resume. His expertise includes alum application strategies and dose determination including leading workshops on the topic for the North American Lake Management Society. Dick is the principal with Osgood Consulting and has worked with the Freshwater Foundation, the Metropolitan Council, the Lake Superior Basins Study Center, and the University of Minnesota. Dick was the President of the North American Lake Management Society from 2007-2009 and on the Board of Directors and Vice-President of Minnesota Waters from 2006-2012.

Dick will draw upon his experience to provide case studies of alum treatments and address questions related to alum application. Dick has reviewed the Cedar Lake studies. As it turns out, Dick will also be able to answer questions related to Eurasian water milfoil management. He has considerable experience working with Lake Minnetonka and other area lakes with EWM infestations.



Dick Osgood, Lake Biologist

FARMER LED COUNCIL UPDATE

According to Andrew Johnson, chair of the Horse Creek Watershed Council, the council is a voluntary, producer-led, performance-based farm and watershed environmental management program to improve soil health and water quality in the Horse Creek Watershed. The Council offers incentives to try new management practices as well as farmer-to-farmer education and outreach. The Cedar Lake District provided financial support for these efforts in 2014, and this support is again proposed in the 2015 Lake District budget.

Much of the Council efforts have focused on investigating and promoting the use of cover crops for soil health. A test plot is established in the watershed, and a field day for presentation of results is planned for July 15th at 10 a.m. on the north side of the intersection of 10th Avenue and 217th Street in the town of Alden. Farmers have also taken advantage of soil health testing the Council is offering. With this test, a total of five measures of soil biological and chemical properties are assessed. Many farmers who use cover crops find that they are able to apply less fertilizer than standard recommendations based on the soil test results.

WISCONSIN BOATING REGULATIONS

No-wake areas are established in Wisconsin Boating Regulations to provide for safe boating and prevent shoreline erosion. Please be sure that your family and guests are aware of these rules.

- It is illegal to operate a vessel at greater than slow, no wake speed within 100 feet of the shoreline, any dock, raft, pier, or restricted area on any lake.
- It is illegal to operate a personal watercraft (aka Jet Ski) at greater than slow, no wake speed within 200 feet of the shoreline. 100 feet restrictions above also apply.

Stand-up paddle boarding is the fastest growing water sport in the world. With the rise in popularity, many paddle boarders often forget that being on a paddle board requires the same safety precautions and vigilance as any other activity on the water, which includes having a life jacket on their board. But DNR strongly recommends wearing the jacket. "Wearing a life jacket significantly reduces the chance of injury or death."

Anyone born on or after January 1, 1989 is required to complete a boating safety course to legally operate a motorized boat or personal watercraft (PWC) on Wisconsin waters. DNR recreational safety specialists recommend all boat operators complete a safety course.

GRANT REQUEST FROM BRIDGE MITIGATION \$

The Cedar Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District will be submitting a grant through the Town of Star Prairie for Stillwater Bridge Mitigation Funds. These funds will support a study of the feasibility of installing sanitary sewer around Cedar Lake. The lake district committed only funds needed to apply for the grant.



SLOW, NO WAKE SPEED MEANS A SPEED AT WHICH A VESSEL MOVES AS SLOWLY AS POSSIBLE WHILE STILL MAINTAINING STEERING CONTROL.



Additional boating regulations are found at: http://dnr.wi.gov/ topic/boat/

STAR PRAIRIE FISH AND GAME DONATION

Thanks to Star Prairie Fish and Game for providing financial support for ongoing work to prevent aquatic invasive species from entering Cedar Lake. The Fish and Game donation supports the Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program and aquatic invasive species surveys at the boat landings. This is the survey that discovered Eurasian water milfoil in the lake and led to the rapid response this year.